

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 24, 27, and 28 are currently amended. Claims 25 and 26 are previously presented. Claims 29-39 are new. Claims 24-39 are pending.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Applicant cancels claims 22 and 23 without prejudice.

10 Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,025,923 to Kageyama et al. (Kageyama) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,238,105 to Pardo (Pardo).

Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kageyama in view of Pardo and further in view of the Office's alleged "Applicant's admitted prior art."

Claims 24-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Office's alleged "Applicant's admitted prior art" in view of Kageyama.

Applicant cancels claims 21, 22, and 23 without prejudice and amends claim 24, on which claims 25-28 rely.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims have not been shown by the Office to be unpatentable over the art of record.

New Claims

25 Claims 29-39 are new.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office issue a Notice of Allowability. If the Office's next anticipated action is 5 anything other than a Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a phone call to discuss scheduling an interview.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:


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